

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 26, 2007, Applicant elects without traverse the invention drawn to a hiking staff as set forth in claims 1-41. Thus, claims 1-41 remain pending and claims 42 and 43 stand withdrawn.

Amendments To The Claims

The renumbering of originally numbered claims 36-44 is reflected in the claim set presented above.

Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 8-10, 14, 17, 20 24-27, 30, 31, 35 and 37-41 to improve the respective form of the claims in accordance with U.S. patent law. As the changes to claims 1-5, 8-10, 14, 17, 20 24-27, 30, 31, 35 and 37-41 are directed to formal matters, are not in response to prior art, and do not narrow the scope of the amended claims, Applicant respectfully submits that no prosecution-history estoppel results from the amendments.

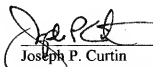
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and response to the Restriction Requirement, it is urged that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

It is requested that this application be passed to issue with claims 1-41.

Respectfully submitted,

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